



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE PAY-AS-YOU-GO ESTIMATE

November 24, 1999

H.R. 2886

An act to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide that an adopted alien who is less than 18 years of age may be considered a child under such act if adopted with or after a sibling who is a child under such act

As cleared by the Congress on November 19, 1999

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 2886 would have a negligible impact on the federal budget. The act would affect direct spending, but we estimate that the amounts involved would be less than \$500,000 annually.

Under current law, U.S. citizens who adopt foreign-born children and who wish to live in the United States may file petitions for immigrant visas for these children if they are under the age of 16. H.R. 2886 would provide that any siblings of these children, who are under the age of 18, would also be eligible for a visa if the older child is adopted by the same family. Enacting this legislation would increase the amount of visa fees collected by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), but we expect only a few hundred children to be affected each year. The INS could spend the fees mostly in the year that they were collected, so enacting H.R. 2886 would result in a negligible net impact on INS spending.

In addition, CBO estimates that enacting this legislation would have an insignificant effect on benefits paid under certain federal entitlement programs. H.R. 2886 would increase the number of children admitted to the United States through adoption, and some of these children could become eligible for certain means-tested benefits.

The CBO staff contacts for this estimate are Mark Grabowicz (for INS costs), and Valerie Baxter (for effects on entitlement programs). This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.